

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING  
SITE SELECTION FOR STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE EXPANSION  
CLAIBORNE COUNTY MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005  
7:00 P.M.**

**Mr. Vernon Phillips  
Anabasis, LLC**

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Vernon Philips, and I come tonight representing Anabasis, LLC, and our support of the U.S. Department of Energy, the State of Mississippi, and the county and citizens of Claiborne County in the selection of the Bruinsburg site as one of the candidates for the expansion of the United States Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Anabasis is a group of Mississippians who are geologists, engineers, land professionals, geophysicists, and other technical professionals who have worked on surface storage, sub-surface storage, surface and sub-surface geology on salt domes, oil and gas fields, marine construction, salt-water disposal well construction, and other technical field data to cavern storage in Mississippi, as well as oil and gas exploration on shore in the United States, off shore in the Gulf of Mexico, both on shore and off shore for more than 25 years. I should say also in numerous places all over the world.

In addition, we have contracted and consulted with the foremost experts from all over the world with experience in salt dome cavern storage in the United States and Germany, as well as legal professionals in our efforts to bring the Bruinsburg site in particular to this location.

Anabasis has done numerous technical environmental studies on the Bruinsburg site and related necessary pipeline routes and other appurtenances needed to construct an environmentally sound, technically feasible, and economically advantageous site for the storage of crude oil for the release in the United States in times of strategic national emergencies. We are convinced that the Bruinsburg site is an excellent site for selection under all criteria released.

We believe that the Bruinsburg site should be selected by the United States Secretary of Energy as one of the expansion sites of the strategic petroleum reserve for No. 1, the benefit of the nation for strategic oil storage; No. 2, as a benefit to the citizens of Mississippi in contributing to natural energy security and for the positive impact that the construction of a large facility would have on the state's economy; and 3, as a boon to Claiborne County in new construction, increase of property values, and related advantages in Claiborne County in new roads, employment opportunities, and other benefits; and finally, 4, to the citizens of Claiborne County as a boost to the local economy and a boost in the moral fiber of a hard-pressed region of the state and their honest efforts to improve their lives.

I thank you for this consideration.